

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 27, 2018
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
C14H-1974-0025
ANDRE HALL, ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY
3001 SOUTH CONGRESS AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1958 dormitory.

ARCHITECTURE

Three-story, rectangular plan, flat-roofed dormitory building built on a reinforced concrete structural frame, and with siding consisting of brick and aggregate panels; aluminum frame windows. The building has mid-century Modern stylistic influences in its horizontal composition, bands of windows, and use of terrazzo panels at the main entrance, containing the figure of St. Andre of Montreal.

RESEARCH

Andre Hall was designed by San Antonio architects Julian and White; construction began in 1957 and the building was dedicated to St. Andre of Montreal in the spring of 1958. The dormitory was designed to house 100 male students, and had a student lounge as well as other community amenities. Each room built-in furniture as well as a lavatory. Shared showers were located in the hallway. The building was not air-conditioned, and by the mid-1970s, was no longer used as a residence hall. The university has since used the building for various offices.

Julian and White was a San Antonio architectural firm that specialized in religious architecture, especially for the Catholic church. Composed of Alvin J. Julian and Donald Noble White, they designed several buildings for Catholic college and school campuses, including the student center at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Little Flower Catholic School in San Antonio, Doyle Hall at St. Edward's University in Austin, Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Laredo, and others. Their other designs seem generally more traditional and relating more to historical architectural precedents than their buildings on the St. Edward's University campus.

STAFF COMMENTS

The dormitory is not listed in any city survey to date, and is not within the area of historic zoning on the St. Edward's University campus.

Staff has evaluated this building for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the building does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The building is a concrete-framed dormitory building with reference to mid-century Modern stylistic features, but does not have the requisite distinction or significance to warrant individual designation under the criterion for architecture.
- b. **Historical association.** The building is a college dormitory; there do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The building was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The building does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image,

or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.




- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center. Staff also recommends the inclusion of any historic photographs of the building as well as current photographs of any extant interior design features for inclusion with the documentation package. St. Edward's University has already decided to salvage the most notable architectural feature of the building, the figure of St. Andre of Montreal, for reuse on the campus.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 375'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: C14H-1974-0025
3001 S CONGRESS AVE

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

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Julian & White (c.1945-1965) was a prolific local architecture firm specializing in liturgical architecture, particularly for the Catholic Church. The firm was comprised of Alvin J. Julian (1913-1999) and Donald Noble White (1915-2002). Their work includes:

- St. Augustine Church remodel, Laredo, 1945-1953 (National Register District)
- Little Flower Catholic School (Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus), San Antonio, 1947
- St. Edward's University, Doyle Hall, Austin, 1957
- Incarnate Word College, Student Center, San Antonio, 1958
- St. Benedict's Church, San Antonio, 1959
- Immaculate Conception Seminary Chapel at Oblate Seminary, San Antonio, 1960
- Mount Sacred Heart Convent, San Antonio, 1961

Julian & White's practice was flourishing during a time of great growth in the San Antonio area. The city's population had grown from the 36th most populous city in the country in 1940 to the 17th most populous by 1960. As a result of growing communities, new parishes were established and existing parish properties were expanded to meet the growing needs. Under the leadership of archbishop Robert E. Lucey (1941-1969), the diocese added 400 building projects during this period, including the expansion of St. John's Seminary.

Julian & White's work on St. John's Seminary campus is an early example of their partnership and one of the earliest examples of their work in San Antonio. After World War II modern concepts of space and form began to appear in church design. Similar to other Julian and White projects, St. Mary's features a modernist interpretation of traditional church architecture and appears to be an early use of this design treatment. On St. John's campus, the architects referenced the Romanesque style reflected in earlier campus buildings. The design of St. Mary's pays homage to the earlier style through its design, material and features.

St. Mary's features a red brick façade, red tile roof, loggia and cast stone accents indicative of the Romanesque style. The use of steel casement windows, large openings, the flat roof entry at the porch and minimal use of detailing reflect principles in modern architecture. St. Mary's Hall serves as a good example of early modern church architecture with traditional influences in San Antonio. Though the firm of Julian and White appears to have dissolved in the late 1960's, both Alvin Julian and Don White continued to work on projects for the Catholic Church and appear to have largely dedicated their careers to church, school, and campus architecture in the San Antonio region.

Taken from the National Register nomination for St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Texas.

Additional known work of Julian and White:

Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Laredo, Texas (1948-49)